



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 20, 2001

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Visit, Corporation of the Presiding Bishopric, Little Cottonwood Granite Quarry,  
S/035/017, Salt Lake County, Utah

Date of Inspection: July 18, 2001  
Time of Inspection: 9:10 to about 10:50 AM  
Weather Conditions: Clear, 80's  
Participants: Greg Baptist and Darlene Batatian, Salt Lake County; Allen Sanderson, Access Fund (a rock climbing group); Paul Baker, Lynn Kunzler, and Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

**Purpose of the inspection:** To examine conditions of the site with respect to the operator's request dated July 3, 2001, to close the permit and file.

## Observations:

We had previously arranged to meet with Mr. Baptist and Ms. Batatian. Mr. Sanderson was not invited but happened to be in the area. He has been following the progress of the project closely, joined our inspection, and provided insight into certain issues.

The parking area at the bottom of the site next to the highway is fenced, but we were able to gain access on the east side of this fence. We walked to the main operations area and along the lower road looking primarily at revegetation and signs of erosion and offsite sedimentation. We found several bigtooth maple, elderberry, and chokecherry and a few Gambel oak transplants. They were mainly on the road leading to the operations area and on the east part of the lower road.

Mr. Baptist said he had counted about 225 trees before there was any disturbance, and, according to the permit from the county, these were supposed to be replaced at a rate of three trees planted for every tree removed. Although we did not attempt to count the transplants, we estimated there were probably about 200-300 plants. In addition, the transplants were supposed to be 2½-inch caliper trees. We found nothing this large. The transplants we found appeared to have been larger than tubelings but not larger than about two-gallon containerized plants. Mr. Baptist said the county has sent the operator a letter of non-compliance because of the problem with the number and size of the transplants.

Most of the rest of the vegetation growing in the reclaimed area is weeds, including horseweed, burdock, and lambsquarters. There are some plants of desirable species, especially Louisiana sage and rubber rabbitbrush. It did not appear, however, that the area had been seeded.

In the upper part of the main operations area, there is some rilling and other sign of soil movement, but it is not a serious problem. This area is steep enough that it may be difficult to establish vegetation; however, there are enough rocks and flatter areas downhill from this area that offsite sedimentation is unlikely to be a problem.

There is a draw below the lower road that Mr. Sanderson called the "Green A" gully. A silt fence and row of straw bales in this draw has not trapped any sediment that we could see.

Along the road leading to the main operations area, there is a row of straw bales covered with silt fence material. This structure is approximately perpendicular to the contour, so it does not trap any sediment. It was apparently installed to divert water.

Messrs. Baptist and Sanderson said there had been some complaints about sediment leaving the site, but after looking over much of the area, Mr. Baptist concluded the area of concern was a drainage farther to the west of the quarry and that the sediment was occurring naturally.

It is clear the road leading to the main operations area is being used by climbers as a pathway to sites above the disturbed area. There is a braided trail going through this area, and while we were there, climbers came up through the area. The operator apparently would like to restrict this use, but it may be impossible.

There is an orange fence around the property, and Mr. Sanderson said he has asked the operator to remove it or at least to move it so it is right next to the actual disturbed area. The operator has been unwilling to do this.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The site does not meet revegetation requirements for a small mining operation, so the Division is not prepared to close the permit and file.

Division representatives will develop a recommended seed mix for broadcasting in the area this fall. (recommended seed mix attached to this memorandum)

The silt fence and straw bales in the "Green A" gully should be removed.

The silt fence-covered straw bales along the road leading to the operations area is not trapping any sediment and may cause unwanted channelization of water. We decided this structure ought to be removed.

Mr. Baptist will look at the possibility of allowing the operator to plant smaller transplants than currently required. It may be possible to allow the operator to plant a larger quantity of smaller trees.

We will arrange a meeting with Mr. Kerry Nielsen, the operator's representative to discuss these issues.

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Field Visit to Little Cottonwood Granite Quarry

July 20, 2001

Recommended Seed Mix

**Little Cottonwood Granite Quarry**  
**S/035/017**

July 19, 2001

	Pounds PLS/acre
Mountain Brome ( <i>Bromus marginatus</i> )	2
Bluebunch Wheatgrass ( <i>Elymus spicatus</i> )	1
Thickspike Wheatgrass ( <i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> )	1
Slender Wheatgrass ( <i>Elymus trachycaulus</i> )	1
Basin Wild Rye ( <i>Elymus cinereus</i> )	1
Big bluegrass ( <i>Poa ampla</i> )	0.5
Pacific aster ( <i>Aster chilensis</i> )	0.25
Palmer penstemon ( <i>Penstemon palmeri</i> )	0.25
Rocky mountain penstemon ( <i>Penstemon strictus</i> )	0.25
Showy goldeneye ( <i>Viguiera multiflora</i> )	0.25
Lewis Flax ( <i>Linum lewisii</i> )	0.5